MARVEL 98 .com

ONE MORE DAY

09.2007

CLAREMONT
CLIQUET
SANTOS
QUINTANA

EXILED

There are realities outside our own; some similar, others abnormal. Sometimes these realities are damaged, and need some help. That's where we come in...

EXILES

Victor Creed
Sabertooth
AGE OF APOCALYPSE

It started much like any other mission for the **Exiles**. They beamed out of the **Crystal Palace** to yet another alternate Earth. But this time they found a world substantially at peace and under the benign protection of **Victor von Doom** and his **Four Fantastics:** himself, **Susan Storm (the Invisible Woman)**, her younger brother **John (the Human Torch)** and scientist **Bruce Banner** (the **Hulk**). Their main adversary turned out to be **Doom's** old university rival, **Reed Richards**, who'd been hideously deformed by an accident back in school. **Reed** was allied with **Banner's** younger cousin **Jennifer**, who'd taken the identity **She-Hulk**. Together, they fought **Doom's** de facto conquest of the world.

Clarice Ferguson
Blink
AGE OF APOCALYPSE

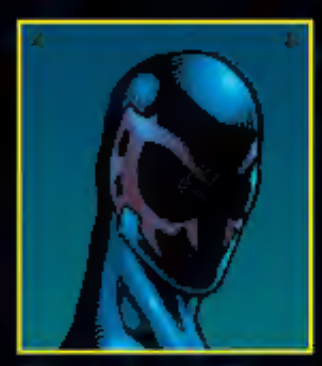
In their first encounter with the **Exiles, Reed** captured **Blink** and escaped with her. The rest of the team became **Doom's** guests at his mile-high palace in Manhattan. Strangely, however, while **Spidey** fit himself right into this new environment, **Longshot** found it strangely repellent, almost as though it was a little bit **too** perfect. Accompanied by **Morph**, he set out to learn the truth. Their search led them to **Blink**, and through her they learned **Reed's** vision of the world. True, **Doom** had brought a kind of peace to the planet – but at the cost, it seems, of humanity's capacity to create and to grow as a species. In a very real way,he had saved the present, at the cost of all its potential future.

Kevin Sydney
Morph
EARTH - 58163

Longshot
MOJOVERSE

At the same time, things were happening to **Betsy** back at the **Crystal Palace**. She found herself contacted by two metaphysical beings – possibly even Gods – who informed her that it was the **Exiles'** role to take over their responsibilities as protectors of all the iterations of creation. As if that wasn't enough, **Betsy** also discovered that a stranger – a young woman, another (younger) version of fellow **X-Man Kitty Pryde** – had entered the **Palace**. And finally, while she was tending to the injured **Kitty**, the **Palace** itself was invaded and over-run by a squad of assault troopers dispatched by **Doom**. **Betsy** and **Pryde** were captured.

Betsy Braddock
Psylocke
EARTH - 616



Miguel O'Hara
Spider-Man 2099
EARTH - 6375

EXILES (ISSN #1540-0964) No. 98, November, 2007. Published Monthly by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2007 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $3.75 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40666537, Canadian Agreement #40666537. Printed in Canada. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. $27.00; Canada $37.00; Foreign $39.00. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO EXILES, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 110 NEWBURGH, NY 12550. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158. FAX # (845) 457-5029. subscriptions@marvelsubs.com. ALAN FINE, CEO Marvel Toys & Publishing Divisions and CMO Marvel Entertainment, Inc.; DAVID GABRIEL, Senior VP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, VP of Business Affairs & Editorial Operations; MICHAEL PASCIULLO, VP Merchandising & Communications; JIM BOYLE, VP of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Managing Editor; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

HOME, AGAIN!

THE DOOM OF TWO GOOD MEN

PART FOUR

by Chris Claremont & Ronan Cliquet

GWEN STACY.

SPIDER-MAN 2099.

THIS WASN'T THE FIRST TIME THE FOUR FANTASTICS HAD LED A STRIKE TEAM INTO THE WORLD'S CATACOMBS IN SEARCH OF REED RICHARDS.

BUT ALL OF THEM SENSED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE LAST.

JOHN STORM (THE HUMAN TORCH).

SUE STORM (THE INVISIBLE WOMAN).

SABRETOOTH.

BRUCE BANNER (THE HULK).

JENNIFER WALTERS (SHE-HULK).

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I CAN'T WAIT FOR A SECOND ROUND WITH THAT *GAL* EXILE.

SHE *OWES* ME FOR THOSE HITS.

AND *THIS* TIME, SHE WON'T CATCH ME BY *SURPRISE*.

THIS IS *MY* FIGHT, BRUCE. IT'S GONNA BE MY *WIN*.

WHATEVER YOU WANT TO TAKE OF YOUR OWN BUSINESS WITH THAT FREAK SHOW *MORPH*...

...JUST LEAVE ME *ALONE*.

YOU HEARD THE MAN, BRUCE.

MIGUEL-- PLEASE, *DON'T*.

WE'LL JUST PICK UP THE *PIECES* WHEN IT'S OVER.

YOU BEIN' *SMART* WITH ME, WALL-CRAWLER?

WOULDN'T THAT BE A *WASTED* EFFORT?

MR. CREED, WOULD YOU PLEASE LOOK AFTER MY *LADY*?

FOR ME TO TALK *SMART*...

...WOULD PRESUME YOU *UNDERSTOOD* WHAT I WAS *TALKING* ABOUT.

SOMEHOW, I'M THINKING WE'RE *NOT* ON THAT PAGE.

YOU *DO* KNOW HOW TO *READ,* RIGHT?

KEEP CRACKIN' WISE, PUNK.

EACH LINE MAY BE YOUR *LAST.*

BOTH OF YOU--WE'RE ON A *MISSION*--

--*STOP* THIS FOOLISHNESS RIGHT *NOW!*

BETTER *LISTEN* TO YOUR BIG *SISTER,* TORCH.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT *US.*

WE'RE ON A MISSION FOR *DR. DOOM.*

WE'RE HERE TO *SAVE* THE *WORLD!*

I SAID...

...ENOUGH!

DON'T *UNDERESTIMATE* REED, STORM.

OR *OVER*ESTIMATE YOUR OWN POWERS.

HAVE YOU *BOTH* LOST WHAT FEW *BRAINS* YOU POSSESS?

WE'RE ON A *MISSION,* NOT AN EXERCISE IN SELF-INDULGENT FUN AND GAMES.

DOOM AND REED. THEY'VE BEEN *ENEMIES* AS FAR BACK AS ANY OF US CAN REMEMBER...

...AND NO MATTER HOW STARK AND IMPOSSIBLE THE ODDS, NO MATTER *HOW* MANY TIMES REED'S BEEN BEATEN...

...HE'S *ALWAYS* FOUND A WAY TO ESCAPE AND START AGAIN.

SO WHAT MAKES THIS TIME DIFFERENT?

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO *BEAT HIM?*

HE'S *ALONE,* AND HE'S *OLD.*

AND HE *LOVES* ME.

HE'LL WANT TO *SAVE* ME, TO BRING ME *BACK* TO HIM.

AND THAT EDGE, THAT *WEAKNESS,* WILL CUT HIM DOWN.

GWEN- BABY--WHAT'S *WRONG?*

WHY WERE YOU FIGHTING? WHY COULDN'T YOU *STOP?*

IT'S NO BIG DEAL, IT JUST SORT OF HAPPENED.

MIGUEL, JOHNNY STORM IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S *HEROES.*

YOU'RE THE MAN I *LOVE*-- BUT YOU'RE MAKING HIM *ANGRY...*

...YOU'RE *FIGHTING* WITH HIM!

MY *CORAZON,* I DIDN'T THINK, I JUST ACTED, I'M SO *SORRY.*

I DIDN'T MEAN TO *UPSET* YOU, I'LL *NEVER* DO IT AGAIN. ALL I WANT, GWEN, IS FOR US TO BE *HAPPY.*

IT'S JUST...

JUST *WHAT?*

IT'S *CRAZY,* BUT TRY AS I MIGHT, I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT *SOMETHING* HERE...

...FEELS *VERY WRONG.*

WHAT DO WE DO?

WE WATCH, WE WAIT, AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT...

...WE *ATTACK.*

"AH, MY OLD *FRIEND...*

...WOULD IT HAVE BEEN BETTER--FOR *BOTH* OF US--TO *DIE* IN THE WAR?

AM I SUCH A *FOOL* FOR FIGHTING VICTOR ALL THESE YEARS, EVEN THOUGH I KNEW MY CAUSE WAS *HOPELESS?*

AM I *MAD* TO THINK OF HIM AS *EVIL?*

WHEN I LOOK AT WHAT *I'VE* DONE, AM I TRULY ANY *DIFFERENT?*

HE'S BROUGHT *PEACE* TO THE WORLD, HE'S ENDED *HUNGER* AND *POVERTY.*

I COULDN'T *SAVE* MY BEST *FRIEND.*

I COULDN'T SAVE THE WOMAN I *LOVE.*

I'VE COME TO THE *END* OF MY ROAD.

ALL THAT I HAVE DONE IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE.

MAY GOD *FORGIVE* ME FOR WHAT IS YET TO BE.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

HOME OF THE EXILES...

...CURRENTLY UNDER OCCUPATION BY A COMMANDO STRIKE FORCE DEPLOYED BY DR. DOOM...

DON'T BE AFRAID, CHILD, IT WON'T HURT.

THIS SERUM WILL REALIGN YOUR DNA TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH OURS. CONSIDER IT A FAR MORE CONCENTRATED VERSION OF THE AIR YOUR COMPANIONS HAVE BEEN BREATHING ON OUR HOMEWORLD.

ESSENTIALLY, YOU'LL BECOME JUST LIKE US.

TRUST ME, IT'S FOR THE BEST--WHAT THE DEVIL?!

THE GIRL—SHE ISN'T TANGIBLE!

IT'S LIKE TRYING TO GRAB HOLD OF A GHOST.

DELANO, MARTINEZ--COVER HER. PHASE BOLTS ON FULL POWER.

HERE'S THE DEAL, LITTLE GIRL--YOU TWITCH, THE LADY HERE GETS DEAD.

THIS ONE LOOKS SOLID, DOC. GIVE HER THE DOSE.

KITTY, *RUN!*

THEN SHE CAN USE HER *TELEKINESIS* TO HELP US WITH HER *FRIEND.*

WANNA *BET?*

I CAN'T *SEE--*

--WHAT'S EVERYONE *REACTING* TO?

I THINK THAT WOULD BE *ME.*

I'M JUST PLAYING A *HUNCH* HERE.

BUT I'M GOING TO ASSUME YOU FELLAS WITH THE GUNS AND THE ATTITUDE ARE THE *BAD GUYS.*

D'YOU *KNOW* THIS GUY BETSY?

IS THAT A *JOKE?*

I'M PRETTY MUCH AS *NEW* HERE AS *YOU* ARE

ZGAK

HOW *LONG* HAVE I BEEN ON THE *SIDELINES?*

I'M *WAY* OFF MY GAME.

HE'S GOT ME COLD THIS IS GONNA *HURT--*

--HUH?

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BIG GUY...

...BUT I'M JUST RETURNING THE FAVOR.

ONE GOOD *SAVE* DESERVES ANOTHER.

JUST WANT TO MAKE A POINT HERE, BUSTER.

I DON'T KNOW YOU, WE'VE NEVER MET.

BUT YOU BARGE INTO MY HOSPITAL ROOM WAVING GUNS AND TALKING ABOUT INJECTING ME WITH YOUR CREEPY DRUGS.

MAYBE I'M WRONG, BUT I TAKE THINGS LIKE THAT *PERSONALLY.*

ENOUGH IS *ENOUGH.*

I'M THE GUY HERE.

NO OFFENSE, BUT I'VE *HAD* IT BEING SAVED BY *GIRLS.*

NO MATTER *HOW* NICE THEY LOOK.

THOK

HOW 'BOUT YOU LET *ME* HAVE A MOMENT IN THE *SUN?*

OKAY NOW, *WHO'S LEFT?*

I *DUNNO* WHO YOU ARE, BUT MY INSTINCTS TELL ME YOU'RE *GOOD GUYS.*

WELL-- *METAPHORICALLY* SPEAKING. ANYWAY

I'M *JOHN PROUDSTAR,* CODE-NAME *THUNDERBIRD.*

I'M SORRY, DID I SAY SOMETHING *WRONG?*

THIS IS *CRAZY.*

I MUST BE CRAZY.

HOW CAN YOU BE JOHN PROUDSTAR? THUNDERBIRD'S *DEAD.*

HE WAS *KILLED* LONG BEFORE I JOINED THE *X-MEN,* ON THEIR FIRST MISSION. AND NO OFFENSE, HE LOOKED *NOTHING* LIKE YOU.

NONE TAKEN. *WHY'S* YOUR FRIEND SMILING?

NOT AT ALL.

YOU THINK THIS IS *FUNNY,* BETSY?

ON *MY* EARTH, IN MY HOME DIMENSION, JOHN PROUDSTAR ALSO DIED.

WE'RE NOT "*X-MEN*" ANY LONGER, CAT. WE'RE *EXILES.*

WE'RE *NOT* HERE TO SAVE THE *WORLD.* LIKE IT OR NOT, WANT IT OR NOT...

...OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS SAVING *ALL CREATION.*

DOOM'S "WAR ROOM"...

IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT DEVISING *COUNTERMEASURES*--

THE SIGNAL'S GONE DEAD, I'VE LOST *CONTACT.*

SUSAN!

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MY DARLING?

SO--THE EXILES HAVE POTENTIAL *REINFORCEMENTS* AT HOME.

AS SKILLED IN BATTLE AS THEY ARE *POWERFUL.*

HEADS UP, SIS, WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

WE'LL HAVE TO TALK LATER, VICTOR--

SUSAN!?!

ADJUTANT--I NEED THE ACTIVE, ALERT SQUAD AND MY PERSONAL *SHUTTLE!*

NO, YOU DON'T.

FORGIVE ME, VICTOR, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF *DEALING* WITH YOUR IMMEDIATE *STAFF.*

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF *CONFLICT,* I THOUGHT IT BEST THAT OUR *FINAL CONFRONTATION...*

...SHOULD BE JUST BETWEEN *US.*

DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS RATHER *FOOLISH*, OLD FRIEND?

ONE LONE MAN AGAINST A *WORLD*?

OR ARE YOU THE KIND WHO THINKS OF THIS AS A LAST NOBLE *GESTURE*?

REED, *NOTHING* YOU DO WILL CHANGE THE *OUTCOME*. SURELY YOU *KNOW* THAT

THE *WORLD* IS MINE. THE FUTURE WILL BE *MINE*. IT REALLY IS FOR THE *BEST*.

TRUE, YOU'VE REMADE THE WORLD-- AND ALL ITS PEOPLE-- IN *YOUR* IMAGE.

YOU *ADMIRE* THAT?

IT'S A *REMARKABLE* ACHIEVEMENT

COME TO *JOIN* ME, THEN?

I'M HERE, VICTOR, TO BRING THIS *ABOMINATION* TO AN *END*.

ALL BY *YOURSELF*, MY OLD FRIEND?

WE WERE *NEVER* FRIENDS!

SUCH A *SHAME* THEN. WE HAVE TO END ON *THAT* NOTE.

YOU'VE BEEN RELYING *TOO LONG* ON SURROGATES.

YOU'VE *FORGOTTEN* WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE IN A REAL *FIGHT.*

IT ISN'T JUST A MATTER OF HOW WELL YOU THROW A *PUNCH...*

...BUT HOW WELL YOU *TAKE* ONE!

MEANWHILE, UNDERGROUND...

BLINK

SLAM

HEY, *RUBBER-BOY,* D'YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE A MATCH FOR *ME?*

BLINK-- *GUYS--* DON'T *DO* THIS!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--THESE PEOPLE ARE OUR *FRIENDS!*

I'M *SORRY,* SPIDEY--

--BUT YOU'RE *WRONG.*

SUE STORM'S TURNED *INVISIBLE!*

LONGSHOT, I NEED SOME *HELP* HERE!

LIKE, RIGHT *NOW!*

HE THROWS FROM INSTINCT, WITHOUT ANY CONSCIOUS THOUGHT, SIMPLY TRUSTING TO "LUCK."

THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO SUE'S POWERS: SHE CAN EITHER TURN INVISIBLE OR GENERATE A FORCE FIELD.

SHE CAN USE ONE OR THE OTHER, NOT BOTH.

THE INSTANT SUE RE-MATERIALIZES, BLINK IS RIGHT ON TOP OF HER.

BUT TO HER SHOCK AND SURPRISE...

...BLINK FINDS SUE READY FOR HER.

GWEN, NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

MY JOB, MIGUEL. WHY AREN'T YOU HELPING?

IT SHOULDN'T BE THIS WAY! HE'S MY FRIEND!

AND WHAT AM I?

I LOVE YOU. PLEASE DON'T FORCE ME TO CHOOSE.

YET YOU'D FORCE ME, MY DARLING.

IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE, MIGUEL.

ARE YOU WITH US, OR AGAINST US?

DOOM'S ORDERS, GWEN--THE EXILES ARE OUR ENEMIES.

I'M SORRY-- THEY HAVE TO DIE.

GWEN, *PLEASE*--DON'T DO THIS! I *LOVE* YOU.

I LOVE *YOU.*

BUT I'M ALSO A *HERO OF DOOM.*

AND I WILL DO MY *DUTY.*

YOU CAN *STRETCH* ALL YOU LIKE, BLUBBER-BUTT IT WON'T MAKE A *DIFFERENCE.*

EVENTUALLY, I'LL *NAIL* YOU!

BLAH BLAH *BLAH* BLAH *BLAH!*

NO *OFFENSE*--BUT HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU...

...YOU TALK *WAY* TOO MUCH!

AND, AT DOOM'S H.Q.

FORGIVE ME, REED, BUT I DON'T HEAR ANY MORE *BOASTS.*

RUN OUT OF THINGS TO *SAY?*

D'YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

I PLAN TO *TRANSIT* THIS ENTIRE WORLD ACROSS TIME TO THE *CRYSTAL PALACE.*

IT WILL BECOME THE *BASE* FROM WHICH MY OPERATIVES WILL EXPAND OUTWARD TO EVERY *DIMENSION* IMAGINABLE.

KLK

THIS IS IT!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

THE *TRANSIT'S* DISENGAGED.

THIS *PLANET* HASN'T GONE ANYWHERE BUT THESE MEN, THEY'RE MY *STRIKE FORCE!*

WHY ARE YOU *SMILING,* REED?!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

WHY DO YOU *ALWAYS* OPPOSE ME, WHY DO *YOU* REFUSE TO COMPREHEND?!

I BROUGHT *PEACE* AND PROSPERITY TO THE *WORLD!*

AT WHAT *COST?*

VICTOR, YOU'VE TAKEN AWAY HUMAN *PASSION.*

THESE PEOPLE HAVE *LOST* THE ABILITY TO *GROW,* TO CREATE, TO *DREAM!*

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME *ANYONE* CREATED ANYTHING, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME ANYONE TRULY *CRIED?*

"PERHAPS THERE'S *NOBODY* LEFT TO CRY FOR, NO NEED TO *FEAR,* NOTHING TO CAUSE PAIN?"

"WHAT ABOUT *LOVE?*"

"THERE'S LOVE *STILL.*"

"REALLY?

"REALLY?

"VICTOR, THEY DIE BECAUSE *YOU'RE* KILLING THEM.

"THEY *DIE* BECAUSE *YOU* REQUIRE THEM TO."

YOU GIVE THEM *NO CHOICE.* NOTHING IS *THEIRS.*

EVERYTHING IS ALL ABOUT *YOU.*

MY PEOPLE WILL *SACRIFICE* THEMSELVES, IF NECESSARY, BECAUSE OF THEIR *LOVE* FOR ME.

THEIR FAITH IN MY *DREAMS.*

"VICTOR-- WHAT ABOUT *OUR* DREAMS?"

I'M *SORRY,* TEAM. THERE'S *NOTHING* MORE WE CAN DO HERE.

IT'S ALL *OVER.* WE'VE GOTTA *GO.*

BLINK, NO!

I *WON'T* LEAVE. NOT YET. WE'RE *HEROES!*

THERE HAS TO BE *SOMETHING* WE CAN DO. WE CAN'T JUST LET THIS WHOLE WORLD *DIE!*

MY DREAMS ARE THEIR DREAMS, REED.

WE'RE NOT *GOD,* MIGUEL.

SOME THINGS *CAN'T* BE FIXED. SOME PEOPLE CAN'T BE *SAVED.*

YOU DON'T GET IT, BOY. THERE'S *NOTHING* HERE TO SAVE.

THIS WORLD'S ALREADY *DEAD,* HAS BEEN FOR YEARS. DOESN'T MATTER THAT THE PEOPLE STILL BREATHE.

IN ALL THE WAYS THAT MATTER, THEY'RE LITTLE BETTER THAN *GHOSTS.*

GWEN--?

I'M *SORRY,* MIGUEL, I'M SO *SORRY.*

SO, VICTOR--*HUMAN EXISTENCE* HAS BECOME ALL ABOUT *YOU?*

"THE HUMAN RACE WILL *DIE* TO SAVE YOU--

"--WITHOUT HESITATION, WITHOUT THOUGHT--

"--BECAUSE *NOTHING* ELSE MATTERS.

"THIS IS THE WAY *YOU'VE* MADE THEM.

"NO LONGER IN *GOD'S* IMAGE--WHATEVER THAT MEANS--

"--BUT *YOURS.*

"*NOT* BECAUSE THEY'VE MADE A *FREE CHOICE.*

"BUT BECAUSE YOU'VE *PROGRAMMED* IT INTO THEIR VERY *SOULS.*

"AND THE MOST *AWFUL,* MOST *TRAGIC* THING...

"...IS THAT YOU DON'T EVEN *REALIZE* WHAT YOU'VE DONE *WRONG.*

"OR EVEN *THAT* YOU'VE DONE WRONG."

WHAT-- HAVE-YOU-- DONE!?!

THE *ONLY* THING I COULD THINK OF.

THE ONLY THING *LEFT.*

FORGIVE ME, VICTOR, IF YOU CAN.

THESE EXILES CALL ME *BRILLIANT,* BUT I'M *NOT.*

I COULDN'T FIND A BETTER WAY TO *STOP* YOU.

I COULDN'T FIND A WAY TO SET THINGS *RIGHT.*

ALL I CAN DO--IS BRING THEM TO AN *END.*

MAY GOD HAVE *MERCY* ON US *BOTH.*

IT'S *GONE.*

THE *EARTH* THE TEAM WAS VISITING, IT ISN'T THERE ANYMORE.

BEG PARDON?

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT?

PERHAPS IT'S THE *EQUIPMENT?*

NO, I'VE STILL GOT A SOLID LOCK ON THAT DIMENSION, IT'S JUST THE EARTH THAT'S GONE.

IT BLEW UP.

IT BLEW UP.

BETSY, WHAT ABOUT *BLINK?* WHAT ABOUT THE *TEAM?*

I DUNNO, I *DUNNO.*

I GOT A *SOLID CONTACT* FROM ALL OF THEM. THEY'D JUST BEGUN THEIR TRANSIT, THEN *EVERYTHING* BLEW UP.

THERE'S TOO MUCH *INTERFERENCE,* I COULDN'T SUSTAIN THE LINK, AND NOW I CAN'T *FIND* THEM.

I THINK THEY'VE BEEN *SCATTERED* ACROSS THE DIMENSIONS.

CAN'T YOU *FIND* THEM?

I MEAN, *HOW* MANY DIMENSIONS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE?

HOW *MANY* CAN YOU *IMAGINE?*

NEXT: *FIVE HEROES--OR, FIND US THE WAY TO GO HOME!*